

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 and 8 – 12, and 15 (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) An expression vector for expression of a gene in a mammalian host comprising a region encoding an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides as set forth in SEQ ID NO.: 3, which encode an HD-interacting polypeptide, wherein the HD-interacting polypeptide is an HIP-apoptosis modulating protein and wherein said protein polypeptide comprises a sequence of amino acids selected from the group consisting of that has a sequence which includes the amino acid sequences given by SEQ ID Nos SEQ ID NOs. 2, 4, 5, or and 7.

13. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim 7 where the HIP-apoptosis modulating protein has a sequence as set forth in which includes SEQ ID No. 4 SEQ ID NO.: 4.

14. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim 7 where the HIP-apoptosis modulating protein has a sequence which includes as set forth in SEQ ID No. 5 SEQ ID NO.: 5.

16. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 7.

17. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 16 that is a mammalian cell.

18: (Canceled) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

19. (Canceled) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

20. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

Please delete claims 18 and 19 and replace with the following new claims. Please add the following new claims 21 and 25.

21. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 20 encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

22. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 20 encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

23. (New) A host cell transfected or transformed with an expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 21.

24. (New) A host cell transfected or transformed with an expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claims 22.

25. (New) An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 20.